



# Egremont News

Issue 80

March, 2015

## Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall.

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## Selectmen:

**Special Town Meeting:** There will be a Special Town Meeting on **Monday, March 2 at 7pm at Undermountain Elementary School Cafeteria in Sheffield.** Please use the side entrance to enter the building. As there is another town's meeting taking place in the auditorium there will be people in the parking lot and in the hallway directing you to Egremont's meeting.

The warrant contains three articles: Voting to appoint, instead of elect, the Water Commissioners; adoption of a Medical Marijuana Overlay District bylaw; and authorizing the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to borrow \$7.7mil to replace the roof and the boilers at the campus (more info on this project can be found later in this newsletter). Warrants, and information, are available at the Town Hall, the Library and both of the Post Offices, or on line at [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov).

**For your calendar:** Annual Town Meeting: May 5, 2015 7pm. Annual Town Election: May 12, 2015 10-7. If you would like to run for a town office nomination papers must be filed by March 24.

This has been a long and active winter with no end in sight. Our road crew is doing the best they can do. As you may be aware there is a shortage of salt in the northeast area. Towns have not been receiving ordered deliveries. In order to make our supply last less salt is being used which means that the roads may not be as clear as you may want them to be. We thank you for your consideration in driving slowly and carefully.

The Board of Selectmen want to thank the Highway Crew for the exceptional work they have

done this winter keeping the Egremont roads clear or at least as clear as they could considering the weather. Also, to all of the Egremont residents who have shown extra care and courtesy navigating our roads during this particularly harsh winter.

Earth Day will soon be upon us. Continuing in their efforts to find more "stuff" to be recycled rather than thrown into the trash, the Egremont Green Committee has arranged for a collection of plastic material too large to be put in the regular plastic dumpster at the Transfer Station. These plastics are referred to in the trade as "bulky rigid plastics." For the month of April, a dumpster will be in front of town hall for the collection of things like large plastic pails, plastic lawn furniture, large plastic toys, coolers, plastic drums, and pet carriers. For a complete list of acceptable and non-acceptable material, please see the flyer at the back of the newsletter and also on the town website: [www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov). { click "Bulky Rigid Plastic Item List" } The dumpster will be available to all, so tell your family, friends, and neighbors in surrounding towns that they can drop off their bulky rigid plastics, too.

Budget season is fully underway in preparation for the upcoming town meeting in May.

In our December newsletter we stated that over the course of the next several months you may hear a lot of discussion regarding Certified Free Cash, Stabilization Fund, and Excess Levy Capacity. We offered a detailed description of Certified Free Cash at that time which has a balance of \$341,974.00. In this issue we will address the Stabilization Fund and the Excess Levy Limit.

**Stabilization Fund: \$449,885.77.** Towns may establish one or more stabilization funds (M.G.L. Ch. 40 Sec. 5B) for different purposes. A stabilization

fund is a special reserve fund into which monies may be appropriated and reserved for later appropriation for any lawful municipal purpose. Monies in a stabilization fund carry forward from one fiscal year to another. Interest earned from the investment of monies in the stabilization fund remains with that fund. A two-thirds vote at town meeting is required to appropriate from the fund. Stabilization funds allow a town to save money for future years or avoid borrowing for capital projects.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Excess Levy Capacity: \$530,567.00.**

Excess levy capacity is a potential municipal reserve that arises out of the operation of Proposition 2 ½. It is the difference between the maximum property tax revenue a community is permitted to raise under Proposition 2 ½ rules (levy limit) and the tax revenue actually raised (levy). If a city or town creates excess levy capacity, it can in subsequent years build the reserve by again taxing less than the levy limit or tap into this taxing capacity to finance municipal spending without restriction.<sup>1</sup>

Should you have any questions regarding the above comments, please feel free to contact the town hall with your question and we will attempt to get your question answered as soon as we are able. Thank you again for giving use the opportunity to serve you.

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services; *A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials*.

#### **School Committee:**

In 2014 the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, along with key members of the District administrative team, applied to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for financial assistance to replace the aging roof and boilers at the Sheffield campus. This was a proactive measure to secure funding for repairs that are necessary to maintaining a safe educational environment for the children of Egremont, Alford, Sheffield, New Marlborough and Monterey into the future. The current roof is many years beyond warranty and beginning to fail, and two of the three boilers used to heat the campus are in critical condition.

We here in Egremont (along with the other

towns in the SBRSD) are fortunate that the MSBA awarded our district a grant to cover 39 percent of the cost to replace the roof and the boilers. In addition, our District administrators secured a secondary grant from the Mass. Department of Energy Resources to defray the cost of upgrading our heating plant to a dual-fuel system that operates on a combination of biomass fuel (wood pellets) and oil. Further information about this project, including correspondence, feasibility studies, and budgets, can be found on the District homepage at [www.sbrsd.org](http://www.sbrsd.org). An informational packet is available at Town Hall, and at a handful of other sites around town.

At the Special Town Meeting on March 2 (at 7pm in the Undermountain Elementary School Cafeteria in Sheffield), Egremont voters will have the chance to weigh in on the matter. Article 3 authorized the SBRSD to borrow \$7,741,000.00, which is a high-end estimate for what it will take to complete the project, including 10 percent in contingency costs. But the SBRSD will only be responsible for 61 percent of the actual costs, and Egremont will only be responsible for its share, as determined by the annual assessments that are computed by state formula from year to year during the budgeting process. For FY 15, Egremont's assessment is 11.55%. If that assessment were to remain steady over the life of the bond, and if the project were to cost the full estimated amount, then the estimated total cost to the town of Egremont would be \$550,00 plus interest, or approximately \$27,500.00 annually.

A "NO" vote means the SBRSD will lose the financial assistance being offered by the MSBA.

A "YES" vote authorizes the SBRSD to go forward with the project as proposed.

It is important to keep in mind that these repairs will need to be made whether the SBRSD takes advantage of the assistance being offered by MSBA or not. But what is more important is that citizens come to the Special Town meeting on March 2 and make their voices heard. For more information, contact Jennifer Sahn at [jsahn@schoolcomm.sbrsd.org](mailto:jsahn@schoolcomm.sbrsd.org) or 528-0959.

**Rabies Clinic:** At the Egremont Town Hall on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 9am to 12noon. Rabies vaccine \$10. Bring your cats and dogs.

**ECO-TIP:**

A big part of the Town's cost to recycle is the hauling fee & the cost to get the container of glass, plastic, and cans to the recycling facility in Springfield. You can help by reducing the empty air that gets hauled: stack your yogurt containers and stomp your plastic beverage (e.g., milk, water) containers flat.

**WiredWest/MBI:**

As the end of February approaches, WiredWest is finalizing a mailing which will go to every known resident of the 32 towns which are participating in the project to build a regional fiber broadband network. To qualify as a "Fiber Town" and be included in the network, 40% of the households in a town must sign-up for service and make a \$49 deposit. It can be paid either by sending a check with a form enclosed in the mailing, or by a secure credit card payment at [wiredwest.net](http://wiredwest.net). If paid with a check, the funds will go into an escrow account. If paid with a credit card, the funds will not be charged to the credit card account until the 40% subscription level has been reached for the town. If a prospective subscriber wishes to cancel his subscription, the money will be refunded. The purpose of the deposit is to confirm that there will be a sufficient subscriber base for the network to be self-sustaining. Bear in mind, that if a potential subscriber has not signed a subscription form when the network construction passes their house, they may have to wait to be hooked up until the network has been built, as crews will first connect people who have signed up and go back later for individual subscribers, so as not to disrupt the build-out. So when the subscription forms arrive, sign up early! A high response rate will also help determine which towns get built out first.

Our next hurdle will be the town meeting, where there will be a warrant article requiring a 2/3 vote for passage of a bond authorization to help finance the building of the network. As most people know, the State is contributing \$40 million to the project, but the rest must be raised by each town that wishes to be a "Fiber Town" as part of the network. Each town will have to raise enough money to cover the remaining cost of

building out the town after the State contribution. The towns will be asked to pay interest only on the bonds for approximately the first 3 years. If the network is successful in attracting enough customers, in time WiredWest may generate sufficient revenues to repay the towns in part or whole for their interest and principal payments.

Working with many volunteers and some grants, WiredWest has managed to accomplish a huge amount in the years since the original town votes creating the "municipal light plants" which in turn formed the WiredWest cooperative. It has taken years, but broadband is within our reach. All we have to do is step up to the plate and we will be served with affordable, reliable, high-speed internet, digital telephone, TV and more. **So be sure to Sign Up for service and Show Up for the vote.**

Governor Charlie Baker announced his commitment to broadband expansion initiatives designed to narrow existing gaps in high-speed Internet access for residents and businesses in Western Massachusetts.....

The Baker-Polito Administration will commit up to \$50 million in existing capital funding to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) (who is working in conjunction with WiredWest) for broadband expansion initiatives. Currently, 45 Western Massachusetts towns, Egremont included, lack any residential cable or broadband access, relying upon DSL or dial-up technologies. Planning, evaluation and program development is underway for several key projects which will benefit from state investment, including construction of a regional fiber-to-the-home network in interested towns currently lacking any residential broadband.

**Treasurer\Tax Collector:**

**MOTOR VEHICLE TAX BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED. PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

If you have not received your motor vehicle excise tax bill, please contact the tax office. Please note that the bills are generated from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Therefore, if the address is incorrect you will need to notify them directly, or contact your insurance company.

If you no longer own the vehicle, please follow the instructions on the reverse side of the bill. Questions concerning ownership, transfer of plates, etc,

need to be addressed to the assessor's office at 413-528-0182 ext 14, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-12.

### HELP US to HELP YOU:

As a property owner, have you ever stopped to think about what would happen if there was a fire or medical emergency at your property but all of the doors were locked? How would the fire department or emergency medical personnel gain access to your building? Without a key readily available, it may be necessary to force entry, resulting in costly damage to doors and windows and delaying access to the emergency. While the end result may justify the means, forcible entry is a last-resort and can be avoided.

In order to provide a faster and more secure service to our community, the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department has adopted the Knox-Box Rapid Entry System.

The Knox-Box Rapid Entry System is a secure emergency access program developed for property owners and fire departments. When a fire breaks out or there is a medical emergency, a Knox-Box allows immediate entry into the building without forced entry, damage or delay. Property owners store entrance keys, alarm access codes, and/or floor plans in high-security Knox-Boxes mounted near building entrances. Once the incident has concluded the department re-secures the property and returns the entrance key to the Knox-Box. Each Knox-Box is purchased by a property owner and is keyed to a single master key controlled by the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department.

Consider installing a Knox-Box if any of the following apply:

- You or a family member have limited mobility
- You or a family member suffer from a medical illness or disability
- Your property has a monitored alarm system
- Your building is an apartment building or a house that has been divided into separate living units
- Your property is commercial or industrial

Egremont Volunteer Fire Department adopted Knox boxes order forms are available through Town Hall or at [knoxbox.com](http://knoxbox.com) ONLY.

A tightly controlled number of lock box keys are assigned to the Egremont Volunteer Fire Department ONLY and are the responsibility of the 5 highest ranking officers. Access to the lock box is permitted by Egremont Volunteer Fire Department officers or at their direction ONLY.

Additional information including pricing and ordering can be found at [knoxbox.com](http://knoxbox.com). From their homepage, click on products, Rapid Entry Systems, Knox-Box 3200 Series, type Egremont into the search departments field, select Egremont Vol Fire Dept and you are there.

If you have a monitored alarm system, please consider helping us help you by installing a Knox - Box. We respond to a lot of fire/smoke/ heat alarm activations every year. We do our best to minimize damage if forcible entry is necessary. The lock box looks like a reasonably inexpensive investment to help us help you.

### ECO-TIP:

Use pressure cookers and microwave ovens whenever it's convenient. They save energy by significantly reducing cooking time.

### Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>/Location</i>	<i>/Type</i>	
12/19/14	9:22 AM	155
Warner Rd		Medical
12/19/14	1:58 PM	156
Lakeside Dr.		Alarm/False
12/21/14	10:38 PM	157
Rowe Rd		Medical
12/24/14	12:44 AM	158
Prospect Lake Rd.		Medical
12/25/14	11:49 AM	159
Main St.		Alarm/False
12/28/14	1:50 PM	160
Prospect Lake Rd.		Medical
12/28/14	8:49 PM	161
Prospect Lake Rd.		Alarm/False
12/30/14	6:31 PM	162
Prospect Lake Rd.		Chimney Fire
12/31/14	12:29 PM	163
Jug End Rd.		Medical

1/ 1/15 3:30 PM 1  
 Egremont Plain Rd. Medical  
 1/ 1/15 11:17 PM 2  
 Village Green St. Medical  
 1/ 6/15 9:15 AM 3  
 Hickory Hill Rd. Medical  
 1/ 7/15 2:55 AM 4  
 Hilltop Rd. Alarm  
 1/ 8/15 1:08 PM 5  
 Hilltop Rd. Water Call  
 1/ 8/15 7:11 PM 6  
 Baldwin Hill E/W Alarm  
 1/ 8/15 10:50 PM 7  
 Main St. Alarm  
 1/10/15 11:15 PM 8  
 Main St. Alarm  
 1/12/15 2:02 PM 9  
 Mt. Washington Rd. Alarm  
 1/13/15 9:00 AM 10  
 Maple Ave. Sheffield Mutual Aid  
 1/13/15 12:58 PM 11  
 Shun toll Rd Wires Down  
 1/17/15 5:12 PM 12  
 Jug End Rd. Medical  
 1/17/15 8:23 PM 13  
 Mill Rd. Alarm/False  
 1/18/15 10:43 AM 14  
 Shun toll Rd. Alarm/False  
 1/18/15 12:09 PM 15  
 Mill Rd. Alarm/False  
 1/19/15 9:21 AM 16  
 Westerhook Rd. Medical  
 1/24/15 1:07 AM 17  
 Baldwin Hill East Medical  
 1/25/15 4:39 AM 18  
 East St. Mt. Washington Medical  
 1/26/15 12:15 PM 19  
 Creamery Rd. Alarm/False  
 1/28/15 12:27 PM 20  
 Blunt Rd. Medical  
 2/1/15 8:58 AM 21  
 Blunt Rd. Alarm/False  
 2/1/15 12:57 PM 22  
 Jug End Rd. Medical  
 2/3/15 8:19 AM 23  
 Mutual Aid GB Mutual Aid  
 2/5/15 4:45 AM 24  
 East St. Mt Washington Medical  
 2/13/15 4:28 PM 25

Main Street Chimney Fire  
 2/15/15 8:20 PM 26  
 Shun toll Rd. Alarm/False  
 2/15/15 9:33 AM 27  
 Miller View Rd. Medical

From Chief Turner,  
 When cleaning up outside after the winter storms  
 please ensure your driveway is clear enough for a fire  
 truck to get through and your 911 signs are still up and  
 visible from both directions on the street. This will help  
 us get to you without any loss of time.

#### ECO-TIP:

Got used fluorescent bulbs? Both Carrø and  
 Aubuchon will take your used CFLs, no matter where  
 they came from, and Carrø will also accept the long,  
 straight fluorescents. All for free.

#### Agricultural Commission:

In the U.S. rabbit is considered a boutique  
 product that is hard to buy and if available in the  
 marketplace it is usually frozen and expensive. This is  
 because rabbits are hard to produce commercially.  
 However, if you have a small plot it's quite easy to do.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 has stated that domestic rabbit meat is the most  
 nutritious meat, and yet per capita in the U.S. rabbit  
 meat consumption averages .02 pounds per person per  
 year. Nutritional information available from the USDA  
 points out that rabbits are lower in calories, higher in  
 protein, lower in cholesterol, and lower in fat than  
 chicken, beef, pork, or lamb.

Why not raise rabbits yourself? Rabbits are  
 extremely ðenergy efficientö to raise. In my  
 experience, rabbits need about three pounds of feed to  
 make one pound of meat. It is a fast process ó the  
 rabbit is ready to eat it in about 6-7 weeks. In  
 comparison, beef cattle need over ten pounds of feed to  
 create one pound of meat and they typically eat  
 subsidized fossil fueled soy and commodity corn. And  
 the time to produce one pound of beef is dramatically  
 longer. Rabbit food is grass, dandelions, veggies and  
 fruits, like carrot tops, potatoes, and apples that can be  
 in abundance in the garden at certain times of year.

The easiest way to raise them is to make  
 what's called a ðrabbit tractorö ó approximately 2øby  
 10øcombination of plywood and wire construction that  
 is easy to move around your lawn. That way the

rabbits can be on their own for 3-4 days in case you need to travel.



Place mature male and female together and in 3-4 weeks, when female makes a nest with her fur remove the male. Typically the litter will consist of 5 to 10 baby rabbits that can grow as large as 6 pounds, but my preference is about 2-3 pounds. Cook it like you would chicken and enjoy your own organic and nutritious meat.

#### ECO-TIP:

Does your fireplace damper fit tightly enough to stop drafts and wasted energy? ðThis Old Houseð recommends this product: [www.batticdoor.com/DraftStopper.htm](http://www.batticdoor.com/DraftStopper.htm).

#### Egremont Historical Commission:

From the Netherlands to American Samoa, over 1,500 people have seen what the Egremont Historical Commission has been up to. A few months ago, New England Document Conservation Center asked us how things were going with our Preservation Needs Assessment, a report the Town had commissioned in 2013. They thought we were doing such a fine job that they wrote a story about it. Now posted on their website, *Small Town – Big Preservation Efforts* has already gotten 1,500 hits. See our story at: <https://www.nedcc.org/about/nedcc-stories/egremont-story> We also have hard copies at the library and Town Hall.

**Saturday, March 7 at 11am** in the newly refurbished Archives Room ó on the second floor of the Library, historian James Parrish will give a talk on the military in Massachusetts and Egremont's role. In the early 1800s, the western end of Massachusetts and the Town of Egremont were protected from a one room building in South Egremont, called the ðTrained Band Houseð. Jim will trace the important part the Militia played in

first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century through the artifacts, accounts and images that have survived. Don't miss ðDefending the Commonwealth, 9<sup>th</sup> Division 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Major Plynna Karner, Commandingö. Our last talk on Major Hugh Smiley was SRO, so come early, visit our exhibits and enjoy an informative talk on Egremont's history.

The Civil War ended in 1865 and the Friends of Egremont History will commemorate this event with an even bigger Civil War basket picnic again this summer. Mark your July 19<sup>th</sup> week-end. Many events to commemorate the end of the war are scheduled throughout the state and our event will highlight Egremont's heroes, at home and away.

#### Egremont Green Committee:

As part of our ongoing effort to encourage the use of renewable energy sources, the Green Committee held, in early February, a very successful informational meeting on renewable energy sources for residential use. Representatives from three firms described their programs. Drew Crowder of Community Energy (267-300-1168) spoke about buying into a solar farm (the current one is located in Northampton). John Tehan of NuWatt Energy (508-241-3274) spoke about rooftop solar installations. Peter Sweet of Viridian (518-567-7655) described the variety of green products that Viridian can provide and the many families and businesses in Great Barrington that use their energy services. You can Google these companies and contact the representatives for more information.

National Grid has another optionö their GreenUp Programö which supports the use and development of renewable-energy technologies but results in an additional (tax-deductible) charge on your NatGrid bill.

In all cases, making a switch is easy and helps to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

#### Council on Aging:

The Egremont Council on Aging has several events to report. Get out your calendar and mark the dates!

Wednesday, March 4 Rescheduled: ðButch Cassidy and the Sundance Kidö at the Egremont Village Inn. Lunch at noon, movie (free) at 1pm \$5 donation suggested for lunch. Please RSVP to Mary at

Town Hall 528 0182 ext 10 so we know how much food to order. Also let her know if you need a lift.

Wednesday, April 1 ÷Calendar Girls÷ same arrangements as above. Don't miss the excitement.

The Egremont COA is now working more closely with Mt. Washington on activities of mutual interest. Two of those events are on April 12

Sunday, April 12, 2PM Mt. Washington resident Paul McBride will talk on ÷The Mohicans, the First Hundred Years of Contact÷ at the Roe Jan Historical Society in Copake Falls. He'll discuss their land and culture leading up to the settlers, and their relationship with both early settlers and the Iroquois Nation.

Sunday, April 12, 4PM "Wine and Opera÷ An Hour of Music Celebrate with us at the Egremont Village Inn, featuring local professional talent Sara Keene, Laura Whyte and John Cheek, followed by wine, bites of something, and Meet the Artist. Open to ALL.

Vicki Windman, an experienced teacher, will be offering an intergenerational, four session, course on the iPad. July 7, 14, 21, and 28. Cost will be \$60. Maximum registration of 10. Please let Mary know if you are interested, 413 528 0182 X10

The Council on Aging has received a small grant from the state to promote a Keep Moving Walking Program. We will need people to help to organize these walks. We want to develop safe indoor and outdoor spaces for year long walking. The program will culminate with a ÷Go the Distance÷ One Mile walk in June. If you'd like to work on this, please call Bruce Bernstein at 413-528-8269.

Seniors 65 and over may be eligible for an income tax credit program designed to alleviate some of the burdens that property taxes can create. It's called the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit because it is triggered, like an electrical circuit breaker, when property payments exceed 10% of a senior's annual income. If you qualify you still have to pay local property tax, but you will receive a dollar credit on your Mass. state income tax for every dollar that the total of your property tax, water, and sewer bills exceed 10% of your

income, up to a maximum of \$1050 for tax year 2014.

Those qualified need to submit Schedule CB, Circuit Breaker Tax Credit with your state income tax return. You may qualify if your income for 2014 was \$56,000 or less for a single filer; \$70,000 or less for head of household; or \$84,000 or less for joint filers.

You don't qualify if your property is assessed at \$691,000 or more. If you would like a tax credit worksheet to determine your eligibility, see Florence in the Assessors office at Town Hall

### Library:

Despite Winter's pummeling (and a few snow days at the library), Egremont Free Library has had a busy winter with Game Night, Lego Club and frequent visits from new and regular patrons. Lego Club is scheduled the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The library has a huge assortment of Lego pieces and mini figures. The kids are having a blast using their imaginations and creating unique, fun Lego scenes. Space is limited, so please call if you plan on attending. EFL's number is 528-1474 or email us at [EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov). EFL purchased four new games for game night fun. We schedule one game night per month. The next game night is Thursday, March 19 (one day before SPRING!) from 6:15 to 8ish p.m.

Bonnie Oloff is a dedicated champion of the library. Last year, she conceived and organized the Egremont Library Fundraiser (ELF). It was a great success, so she's agreed to organize another ELF. The ELF Arts and Crafts Fair will take place at the South Egremont Fire Department and First Congregational Church on Saturday and Sunday, July 18 & 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in selling your wares, you may reserve a 10 x 10 space for the weekend for \$30. To sign up or for more information, contact 528-5637. The Egremont Fire Department will be grilling up some delicious barbecue and the First Congregational Church will provide yummy snacks and drinks. It'll be a fun event! Stay tuned for more details.

Last November, the Egremont Free Library began its membership with the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Sharing System (CW MARS). We've had patrons from other libraries visit to pick up classics and other titles from our library. Patrons have also appreciated the convenience of returning library books from other libraries to EFL. We'll be getting additional delivery days added to the schedule (we currently have just one) as the demand for

ILLS has increased. The sharing network is wonderful and adds value to the service our library can provide to Egremont and CW MARS patrons.

If you would like regular updates emailed, you may email me at [EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:EGRLibrary@egremont-ma.gov). I send emails öblind ccö so your email stays private. As always, I welcome suggestions, questions, comments, etc.

Thinking SPRING.

### Planning Board:

Planning Board is presenting the Medical Marijuana Overlay District proposed Draft Bylaw at the Special Town Meeting on Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, which will be held at the Undermountain Elementary Cafeteria at 7 PM. The details of the proposed new bylaw are available for viewing on the town website.

The Board is also holding two public hearings on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the North Egremont Firehouse on Route 71 in North Egremont. The first, at 7:00 PM, is for a proposed amendment to the Zoning Bylaws to create a Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District. The solar array would be installed would be erected on Town-owned property above the Town Hall on Route 71.

The second hearing, at 8:00 PM, also at the North Egremont Firehouse, is for a proposed amendment to the Zoning Bylaws to create an Open Space and Recreational Overlay District on the entire Town. This proposed amendment was presented to the Planning Board by the Board of Selectmen, and crafted by representatives from Catamount Ski Area.

We urge everyone to attend the Special Town Meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Public Hearings on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Sustainability Coordinator:

Exciting news! Two articles will be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May to bring Egremont closer to becoming a designated Green Community. If favorable votes are given we will demonstrate our commitment to addressing climate change locally, and at the same time be eligible for at least \$125,000 in funding. This funding, which is not tax dollars, would be put

towards future energy efficiency projects for the town and reduce our municipal energy operating costs. Think of it ö helping the planet and long-term savings to the town at the same time!

The first article for vote will be to establish a zoning by-law creating an overlay district for a by-right large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation. The chosen overlay district is a 2-acre parcel of town-owned land adjacent to the town transfer station. Approving this bylaw doesn't mean a large-scale ground-mounted PV installation is coming to town any time soon ö community solar projects like these have to be economically feasible to both a solar developer and the town. This by-law just says that if it *should* become economically feasible it will be allowed by-right on this site alone and not subject to a special permit. Because this parcel is town property, it is still subject to public discussion and eventual vote. And a large-scale solar PV installation on any other parcel of land, whether privately or publicly owned, would still be subject to a special permit.

**The Planning Board has scheduled a hearing for public comment on this by-law on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the North Egremont Fire House.**

The second article for vote is for the town to adopt a building code known as öthe Stretch Codeö for future construction. In certain respects the current building code surpasses some of the requirements of the Stretch Code. Primarily what sets the Stretch Code apart is that it requires an independent Home Energy Rating System to be done to ensure a certain level of energy efficiency compared to the 2009 Building Code.

The costs for Stretch Code requirements have been estimated to be approximately \$950 - \$1250 for a new residential home. Not only will these extra costs be recouped by the energy savings they deliver but are eligible for generous rebates through state programs.

At this writing, 136 cities and towns across the Commonwealth have achieved Green Communities status. Egremont must approve these two warrant articles at the May Town Meeting for us to join them and reap the benefits. **An informational meeting on all five criteria as well a Green Communities program overview is scheduled for Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Town Hall.** At that meeting there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss the criteria at length and ask any questions you may have. In the meantime, if you have question, please call Juliette Haas at 413/528-0182 x 22 or email at [jhaas@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:jhaas@egremont-ma.gov).

**First Congregational Church:**

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont will hold its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, St. Patrick's Day, March 17, from 5:30 -7 p.m. Adults \$12, Children ages 5-10 \$5. Take-out will be available.

Also, the Church will sponsor its annual Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15 a.m. at Proctor's Bel-Air Farm, 131 Baldwin Hill Road. Light breakfast will follow the service in the Proctor home. All in the community are invited to attend.

**Egremont Library Fundraiser-ELF:**

Arts & Crafts Fair - Saturday & Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am - 4:00pm, South Egremont Fire Department and First Congregational Church of South Egremont. Cost: \$30 for the weekend for a 10x10 space.

The Fire Department will be having a barbecue and the church will be serving drinks and other goodies.

Contact - Bonnie 528-5637.

**ECO-TIP:**

Interior storm windows stop drafts! Check out the Indow Window, [www.indowWindow.com](http://www.indowWindow.com). If you do it now, you'll be ready for next winter.

**County Reverse 911 Notification System:**

The Berkshire County Sheriff's Office is offering a self-registration site for the NEW GeoCast Web Emergency Reverse 911 Notification System. This web site is for those residents and businesses who do not have a traditional landline phone, or who would like to be notified on their cell phones via text, phone call or e-mail for any emergency notifications in their area. Please go to the following website to sign up for the alerts: <https://bcsoma.onthealert.com>  
**Mount Everett Music Department Band and Chorus travel to Los Angeles, California on April 15-19, 2015**

Traditional learning within the walls of a school works, but it's when students leave the classroom and experience the world that true learning begins.

The Mt. Everett music department understands this concept and takes a major trip every other spring. These trips are often the

highlight of a student's high school career. This spring, the trip is to Southern California, but they need your help.

While the trip is not required, the goal is for all students to have the ability to attend, regardless of financial circumstances.

Past trips include Orlando in 2011 and Virginia Beach in 2013. While on the trip, students attend a workshop with a notable music clinician, compete and occasionally perform at a theme park, sight see, and bond as a group.

At past competitions, the musical ensembles have won prestigious awards, increasing the program's reputation and encouraging students to be their best.

This spring's trip to California will include a visit to the Santa Monica Pier, a competition at Disneyland, a guided tour of Los Angeles and a visit to Venice Beach to experience the Pacific Ocean.

As mentioned above, the school and students can't afford this on their own. If you are willing to donate, your contribution will financially assist a low-income student so that they may be able to go with the rest of the group.

**If you would like to help, please contact Choir Director, Chris Clark or Band Director, Courtney English at (413) 229-8778 ext. 126, or you can mail your support to Mt. Everett Music Dept. PO Box 219 Sheffield, MA 01257.**

Thank you for supporting the music programs in our district.

Be sure to see the Mount Everett High School **Chorus concert on May 21, at 7:00** and the **Band concert on May 27, at 6:00.**

**ECO-TIP**

Your salt (for water softeners) and pellet bags are #4, which can be recycled. Garbage pails at the Transfer Station are available to put them in. (Please don't put in feed bags or other types of plastic bags. Take clean plastic bags to the bin at Big Y, located in the bottle-return room.)

**Berkshire Young Adult Survey:**

The Berkshires have been losing population for several decades and are projected to continue to lose population into the foreseeable future. Over the last two decades, the majority of this loss has been among young adults. This link

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireYoungAd>)

ults) will bring you to a survey that is designed to gain a better understanding of the various reasons why young adults (18-39) live in the Berkshires as well as why they may have moved away.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and to email, share, tweet this survey to anyone you know who has lived in the Berkshires at some point during their life and is between 18 and 39! The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete.

### **Meeting schedule:**

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon  
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Thursday of each month at 1pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday 8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as posted 9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm

January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon  
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

### **Business listings:**

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

### **Support local businesses**

Prospect Lake Park and Campground - camping, swimming

413-528-4158 [prospectlk@aol.com](mailto:prospectlk@aol.com)

[www.prospectlakepark.com](http://www.prospectlakepark.com)

Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations

413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

[www.innsweetwater.com](http://www.innsweetwater.com)

John Andrews Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant- Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

[www.swisshutte.com](http://www.swisshutte.com)

Robins Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

[robinschaircaning@gmail.com](mailto:robinschaircaning@gmail.com)

Howard Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration

413-528-1232

[www.howardsantiquelighting.com](http://www.howardsantiquelighting.com)

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing

413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects  
195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)  
413-528-5383  
[www.homeasianantiques.com](http://www.homeasianantiques.com)

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern  
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and  
decorative objects.  
413-528-0112  
[www.41mainantiques.com](http://www.41mainantiques.com)

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback  
Riding  
Lessons, summer programs  
[www.bluerider.org](http://www.bluerider.org)  
413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -  
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.  
413-528-2367 [arabpinto13@yahoo.com](mailto:arabpinto13@yahoo.com)

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported  
Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets  
413-528-8301  
[www.indianlinefarm.com](http://www.indianlinefarm.com)

Ivory Pond Farm -  
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug  
Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and  
supplies.  
Tom & Liz Marino  
413-528-9465  
[www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com)  
[Llamama@wildblue.net](mailto:Llamama@wildblue.net)

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,  
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.  
413-528-5710

B&S Gventer öBooks & Ephemeraö - Buy & Sell  
Books  
<http://blaize.com/>  
413-429-7467

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork  
413-644-9979  
[www.CosmicResonance.com](http://www.CosmicResonance.com)

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor  
44 Main Street, South Egremont

413-528-9654  
[healingspiritdc@yahoo.com](mailto:healingspiritdc@yahoo.com)

Zorn Core Fitness -  
Personal, Couples & Group Training  
Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month cardio for  
Egremont residents  
46 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-1594  
[www.zorncorefitness.com](http://www.zorncorefitness.com)  
[zornari@gmail.com](mailto:zornari@gmail.com)

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe  
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga  
46 Main Street, South Egremont  
413-528-0828  
[kbyoga@gmail.com](mailto:kbyoga@gmail.com)

Divine Automotive - Automotive repair & sales  
413-528-8007

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,  
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more  
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating  
413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household  
consignment shop  
413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail  
wood veneer sales  
413-644-9696

Toull Construction - Jobs large and small.  
Lord St. Pierre  
413-528-5548

öJack of All Tradesö-Handyman Services  
Jack Buckley  
413-528-1982  
413-446-1982

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking Field  
Mowing  
413-528-0102  
pager 413-261-2150

Ron Brazie Jr - Full service property maintenance and management.  
413-717-2889

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance to construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, organizing, window washing with free screen cleaning.  
413-854-7417 [bonbonz75@yahoo.com](mailto:bonbonz75@yahoo.com)

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course  
413-528-1262  
[www.catamountski.com](http://www.catamountski.com)

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales  
William Pitt Sotheby's  
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920  
[anitaschilling@gmail.com](mailto:anitaschilling@gmail.com)

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service  
90 Creamery Road  
413-528-3266  
[flobro@wildblue.net](mailto:flobro@wildblue.net)

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel & Accessories  
39 Main Street  
413-528-2330  
[www.kenverltd.com](http://www.kenverltd.com)

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger  
154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer  
Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That Get Results. 413-644-9700  
[helen@agencywithoutwalls.com](mailto:helen@agencywithoutwalls.com)

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall  
PC repairs - Networking - Internet  
413-528-5415  
[Matthew.wall@yahoo.com](mailto:Matthew.wall@yahoo.com)

Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea  
<http://www.dellea.biz>  
413-528-1141

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with nature. Eric F. Ives  
Mass Problem Animal Control Agent

Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and exclusionary work.  
413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont  
413-528-0445 [www.brooksidequiltworks.com](http://www.brooksidequiltworks.com)  
Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much more

Sue Delmolino Ives  
413-644-0229 [susandelmolino@yahoo.com](mailto:susandelmolino@yahoo.com)

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford  
[berkshiresewn@gmail.com](mailto:berkshiresewn@gmail.com)  
413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin photography  
South Egremont 1-917-991-0553  
[info@gregorycherin.com](mailto:info@gregorycherin.com)  
[www.gregorycherin.com](http://www.gregorycherin.com)

Berkshire South Regional Community Center  
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA  
413-528-2810 [www.berkshiresouth.org](http://www.berkshiresouth.org)  
Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood to senior citizens - and partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm  
Business law & litigation  
40 Main Street  
413-528-2698  
[www.gogel-gogel.com](http://www.gogel-gogel.com)

Chloe Wosczyński travels: to view go to  
[www.studleyofegremont.com](http://www.studleyofegremont.com)

House To House Hauling & Recycling  
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.

Jana's new book, The Twelfth Stone is a pick for the Kids' Winter Indie Next list! Get it from your local independent bookseller and support the locals! and it's a finalist in ForeWord Reviews Book of the Year Award! Jana is the very first Writer-In Residence at Herman Melville's beloved Arrowhead.  
[www.mobydick.org](http://www.mobydick.org)

Jana's new book, Thomas & Autumn is available now! [www.crowfliespress.com](http://www.crowfliespress.com)  
413-528-0943 [www.janalaiz.com](http://www.janalaiz.com)



***"Keeping the Town in Mind"*** Gary Leveille, noted historian to the Berkshire region and author of several books has brought another item to the Town's attention. Here, a horse nail trimmer, designed and manufactured in South Egremont by W.L. Bliss. Over the years, Gary has kept Egremont in mind as he cruises ebay and tag sales, finding a variety of items pertaining to our history. Thank you Gary! Unfortunately Gary was not able to purchase this item.

Bliss farrier's tool: Bliss was the blacksmith in what is now the quilt shop in the late 19th century; he then founded the Bliss Manufacturing Co. to manufacture his new hoof-cutting machine and moved it to the Old Mill, where it was on the 1904 map.

Town of Egremont  
Box 368  
South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-0182  
[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
[tegremont@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegremont@egremont-ma.gov)

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*"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider and employer."*

*All A Dreaming - Maybe*  
By Stanley Farnum

*Sometimes I have a dream so real  
That when morning comes I feel  
I must set my pen to work  
And print a written picture there  
Before it flies away in the mists of time - I know not  
where.*

*And so I tell a story here of what must be unreal-  
or is it?*

*You see that after many yeas have passed I had a  
dreamtime visit.*

*My wife, my friend, my sweetheart, long gone to the  
other sphere,  
Stood in soft light by my side, so real and yet unclear.*

*A dream of course and yet, my girl as she looked when  
we first met*

*She stood but a shadow at my side, the lovely dark  
hair*

*And deep blue eyes still with soft love set  
As when she first became my bride.*

*And so I reached to touch her hand for I awoke you  
understand*

*And found but just the night to clasp.  
For in a dream only the mind may grasp such beauty*

*But when I arose from my sleep warmed bed  
A tear upon my cheek,*

*I fount it was but my darkened mind while sleeping  
made me seek*

*Some remnant thought of long ago - but suddenly  
t'was all undone*

*For the scent was there of her perfume,  
I tell this truth to everyone*

*I find it hard to believe myself except  
For one thing more.*

*Beside my bed where she had stood  
Lay our wedding picture on the floor.*

Examples of Acceptable Items:



**WHO: Open to all, FREE**

**For a full list of acceptable and non-acceptable items  
go to the Town of Egremont website:  
[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
click: “Bulky Rigid Plastic Item List”**

# 1865 BASKET PICNIC

SUNDAY

19<sup>TH</sup>

OF JULY

12:00 - 3:00

VILLAGE GREEN  
'TRIANGLE'  
SOUTH EGREMONT

STORIES FROM A SUMMER DAY IN 1865

MANY EGREMONTORS SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR AND MANY FAMILIES WERE AFFECTED BY THE WAR IN VARIOUS WAYS. THESE STORIES WILL BE PORTRAYED BY LOCAL ACTORS IN SCENES SET WITHIN THE HISTORIC EGREMONT VILLAGE. ON THE SITE OF THE OLD EGREMONT INN WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE 15TH MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY TO HELP TELL THE STORY.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF EGREMONT HISTORY  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF EGREMONT & THE EGREMONT  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND WITH SUPPORT FROM THE  
ALFORD-EGREMONT CULTURAL COUNCIL